News Release

ONLINE PUBLICATION REVEALS STATE'S AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT

Ever wonder which West Virginia county grows the most corn? (Jefferson was way out front with 1.68 million bushels in 2013).

Where West Virginia ranks in U.S. apple production? (Ninth, if you're keeping track).

The number of beef cattle munching grass along the state's country roads? (About 380,000 as of January 2014).

The West Virginia National Agricultural Statistics Service's (WV/NASS) new 2014 Annual Bulletin – now available online – has the answers to these and many other questions.

The bulletin is a compilation of agricultural statistics gathered from surveys conducted throughout the year and Census of Agriculture data. The census is an in-depth collection of data published every five years. The web versions offer two ways to review the data - in full booklet form, or by pages.

"The data collected by the Ag Statistics Service are invaluable to policy-makers," said West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick. "What these numbers indicate to me is a huge opportunity for West Virginia to expand its economy by growing more of what we eat."

WV/NASS is the state field office of the National Agriculture Statistics Service, an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The publication contains a wide variety of information of interest to farmers, government officials, and the general public.

Anyone interested in the agriculture of the state will find useful statistics such as the number of farms, cash receipts, and the rankings of some of West Virginia's commodities. The data are illustrated with numerous user-friendly charts, graphs, and maps.

To access the data, go to http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/West_Virginia/index.asp and click under "West Virginia Publications" and then select "Annual Statistical Bulletin" to view.

Questions may be directed to the WV National Agricultural Statistics Service Office at 304-357-5123.